

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1-20 were originally presented in this application. Claims 1 and 5 are amended. Claims 9-20 were previously canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, Claims 1-8 are pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, the term “latch circuit” has been removed from the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Farwell (USPN 5,062,001). Independent claims 1 and 5 are amended to require “determining if the pixel data corresponds to a pseudo gray-scale image or a bi-level image” and “keeping a final enumerated value of the counter for a former unit instead of resetting the final enumerated value if the pixel data corresponds to the pseudo gray-scale image or resetting the counter at the end of the former unit if the pixel data corresponds to the bi-level image.” See applicant’s specification, paragraphs 10, 11, 37 and 41.

In general, a bi-level image is a digital image in which each pixel is represented by a single bit, which can be either on or off. For this reason, a bi-level image comprises only two colors: a background color and a foreground color. Although the data itself is a bi-level in a pseudo gray-scale image, the pseudo gray-scale image represents various shades of gray by the arrangement of dots.

Farwell is directed to a system that converts a color image into a gray-scale image. This system projects an image, such as a color image, in gray-scale on a large screen. In such a system, the different colors or shades are indicated on the screen by individual shades of gray. See Farwell; column 2, lines 1-17. Farwell

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Attorney Docket No. 81800.0151
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does not disclose or suggest determining if the pixel data corresponds to a pseudo gray-scale image or a bi-level image, as is required by amended claims 1 and 5. Moreover, Farwell, based on this determination, does not reset a counter if the pixel data corresponds to a bi-level image and not reset the counter if the pixel data corresponds to a pseudo gray-scale image, as is also required by amended claims 1 and 5.

Since Farwell does not disclose each and every limitation of claims 1 and 5, as amended, it cannot anticipate claims 1 and 5, or claims 2 and 6 dependent thereon. Applicant submits that the rejections under 35 USC 102 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103

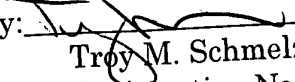
Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Farwell in view of Honma (USPN 5,280,348). Claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 depend from claims 1 and 5. As Honma does not remedy the shortcomings of Farwell, claims 3, 4, 7 and 8 are allowable for the same reasons as set forth with respect to claims 1 and 5.

Conclusion

This application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to resolve any issues that remain after entry of this amendment. Any fees due in connection with this response may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

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By: 
Troy M. Schmelzer
Registration No. 36,667
Attorney for Applicant(s)

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701